

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/971,119 Confirmation No. 1020  
Applicant: : David P. Fries et al.  
Filed: : 10/04/2001  
TC/A.U. : 2881  
Examiner : Paul M. Gurzo  
Docket No. : 1372.87.PRC1  
Customer No. : 21,901

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the final Examiner's Action mailed July 28, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire October 28, 2003, Applicant responds as follows:

**A Terminal Disclaimer To Obviate A Provisional Double Patenting Rejection Over A Pending Second Application** begins on page 3 of this paper.

Conclusion

Applicant has carefully studied the final Examiner's Action mailed July 28, 2003. Accordingly, this patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Very respectfully,  
SMITH & HOPEN

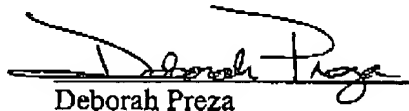
By: Molly L. Sauter  
Molly L. Sauter  
Suite 220  
15950 Bay Vista Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33760  
(727) 507-8558  
Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: October 28, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION  
(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this response is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2881, Attn: Paul M. Gurzo, (703) 872-9319 on October 28, 2003.

Dated: October 28, 2003

  
Deborah Preza